**Investment in Agricultural Sector in North Eastern Region**

15. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of investment made by Government in Agriculture sector in NER during the last three years;

(b) the total amount of investment proposed to be invested in Agriculture sector in the region during the next three years; and

(c) the effective measures taken to remove regional imbalance in the field of agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) According to information furnished by the Planning Commission State-wise Approved Annual Plan outlays for Agriculture and Allied activities from 1997-98 to 1999-2000 for all the N.E. States including Sikkim are at Annexure *(See Appendix 189, Annexure No. 2).*

(b) Allocations are made on annual basis.

(c) The Ninth Plan envisages regionally differentiated strategies based on Agro-climatic Zones; (a) High Productivity Zone (Northwest and Coastal region), (b) Low Productivity-High Potential Zone, (c) Low Productivity Zone (Central Plateau Region), (d) Ecologically fragile Regions including Himalayan & Desert Areas.

**Diversion of Amount for Calamity Relief**

16. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the diversion of substantial amount of the Central and voluntary funds for calamity and drought relief works by the State Governments for other purposes;

(b) if so, whether any appraisal has been made by Government to know the extent of diversion of such funds by the State Governments and the purpose for which it is used;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and